

Message Text

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ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 AID-10 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00 PM-03 NSC-10 NSCE-00 PA-01

RSR-01 /065 W

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R 251048Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5103

USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 13440

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, MILI, VS

SUBJECT: MR 2 SITREP, JULY 25

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SAIGON INFO CINCPAC USDAO SAIGON

USSAG NKP RTAFB JULY 25 REPEATED TO YOU

QUOTE NHA TRANG 0721

1. SECURITY SITUATION: MR 2 NHA TRANG BRIEFING AND POLOFFS/
PROV REPS REPORT TOTAL OF 38 INCIDENTS DURING PAST 48 HOURS.
ENEMY-INITIATED ACTIONS INCLUDED A NUMBER OF ABF'S AND A FEW
SMALL GROUND ATTACKS; SEVERAL CONTACTS OCCURRED WHEN PATROLLING
RVNAF UNITS ENCOUNTERED ENEMY. THERE WERE 20 INCIDENTS IN BINH
DINH, SEVEN IN KONTUM, SIX IN BINH THUAN, THREE IN PLEIKU, AND
ONE EACH IN NINH THUAN AND DARLAC. CASUALTIES REMAINED
SUBSTANTIAL: NVA/VC: 44 KIA; RVNAF: 22 KIA, 47 WIA.

2. FIGHTING WEST OF KONTUM CITY CONTINUES, WITH ARVN 23RD
DIVISION INCREASING ITS ARTILLERY EXPENDITURES; EARLIER
SHORTAGES APPARENTLY ALLEVIATED. POLOFF REPORTS THAT ON JULY 24 A

SQUADRON OF ARMORED VEHICLES JOINED INFANTRY UNITS ATTEMPTING
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TO RETAKE TRUNG NGHIA VILLAGE FROM THE EAST, BUT INTRODUCTION

OF THIS ELEMENT HAS SO FAR PRODUCED NO OBSERVABLE CHANGE IN TACTICAL SITUATION. POLOFF UNDERSTANDS ARMOR WILL BE EMPLOYED IN CONJUNCTION WITH TAC AIR THIS AFTERNOON (JULY 25). RELATIVELY GOOD WEATHER IN KONTUM LAST TWO DAYS PERMITTED EXTENSIVE USE OF TAC AIR, APPROX 20 SORTIES ON JULY 23 AND 24 ON JULY 24.

3. ROCKETING OF ARTILLERY HILL AREA OUTSIDE POPULATED AREA OF PLEIKU CITY, REPORTED IN NHA TRANG 0718, WAS NOT RPT NOT MENTIONED IN NHA TRANG BRIEFING THIS MORNING. NO INDICATION OF ANY RVNAF REACTION SO FAR.

4. MINOR INCIDENTS CONTINUE TO MAR QUANG DUC'S ACCUSTOMED TRANQUILITY. WEEKEND TRAVELERS ALONG QL-14 WERE DETAINED AT TEMPORARY ENEMY ROADBLOCK VIC YU 694.604 AND TREATED TO PROPAGANDA LECTURE; THIS WAS FIRST KNOWN INTERRUPTION OF TRAFFIC ON QL-14 WITHIN QUANG DUC IN PAST SIX MONTHS. IN ADDITION, PRG LEAFLETS WERE FOUND ELSEWHERE ALONG HIGHWAY (YU 670.480). THE BU BON RF CAMP WAS MORTARED JULY 22 FOR FIRST TIME IN AT LEAST EIGHT MONTHS. WE ASSUME THIS ACTIVITY IS FURTHER REFLECTION OF RENEWED ENEMY INTEREST IN THIS CORNER OF PROVINCE (SEE NHA TRANG 705 AND 712, SITREPS).

5. CIVILIAN DETAINEE RELEASES: RELEASE OF TEN DETAINEES IN KHANH HOA MORNING JULY 25 WAS POSTPONED; PROVINCE AUTHORITIES UNDERSTAND THIS WAS AT INSTANCE OF PRG. ASSUME POSTPONEMENT RESULTS FROM TPJMC SITUATION REPORTED SAIGON 13367. WE HAVE NO INFORMATION SO FAR ON SIMILAR RELEASES PLANNED FOR TODAY IN PHU YEN AND KONTUM BUT PRESUME THEY LIKewise POSTPONED ONCE AGAIN. SIGNED ENGLE UNQUOTE
MARTIN

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